

REMARKS:

Claims 1-9 are presently pending in the application. Claims 1 is an independent method claim. Applicant affirms the election of Group I.

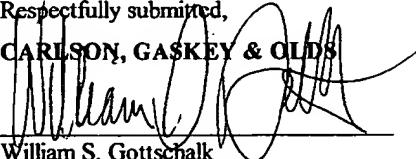
Claims 1-4 and 7-9 were rejected under §103 over Stritzel in view of Hempel and Kovach. Claim 1 requires "casting a differential case around a portion of the ring gear," which is not shown Stritzel. The Examiner relies upon Hempel, which discloses casting a gear onto a hub, for this missing limitation. This combination is improper for two reasons. First, Hempel discloses casting the gear onto a member, which is the opposite of claim 1. Again, claim 1 requires the casting the differential case onto the gear. Accordingly, all of the elements are not provided by the references, namely the casting of the differential case.

Second, modifying Stritzel would render assembly of the Stritzel invention impossible. Specifically, the gear and differential case cannot be made integrally as part of a casting operation. The presence of the ring gear on the differential case would interfere with machining operations and the installation of the many components of the assembly. More specifically, the presence of the ring gear on the case (which would necessarily occur if a differential case was cast onto a ring gear) would make it impossible to machine the slots and bores in the differential case that receive the pins 44 of the wheels 37 and 39. As shown in Figures 1 and 2, at least one pair (and in the embodiment shown, three pairs) of transfer gears are located radially inboard of ring gear (shown in phantom) adjacent to the flange 16. As a result the combination is improper.

Claim 6 was rejected under §103 over Stritzel in view of Hempel and Kovach in further view of Saito. Saito relates to a heat resistant stave cooler for a blast furnace and to steel and coating formulations (see col. 1, line 57-col. 2, line 3 and the claims). This is completely irrelevant and has nothing to do with the projections claimed. One of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify any of the references in light of the Saito disclosure. Since the steel has a higher melting point and is being cast onto the iron (the cooling pipe) in Saito, the coating, projections and surface roughness between the surfaces are critical (see col. 3, lines 52-67). Claim 5 is allowable for the additional reason that iron is the case material. Saito teaches that the steel must be the cast material to achieve the welds to the iron projections.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. If any fees or extensions of time are required, please charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1482.

Respectfully submitted,
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Version with markings to show changes madeIN THE CLAIMS:

5. (Amended) The method according to claim [1] 6, wherein the differential case is ductile iron.

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